

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: not yet assigned
Filing Date: not yet assigned
Applicant: Schmidt et al.
Group Art Unit: not yet assigned
Examiner: not yet assigned
Title: Process for Short-Time Arc Welding and Short-Time Arc-Welding System
Attorney Docket: 0275M-000863

Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicant hereby submits an Information Disclosure Statement for consideration by the Examiner.

I. LIST OF PATENTS, PUBLICATIONS, AND OTHER INFORMATION

The patents, publications and other information requested to be considered by the Office (except unpublished U.S. patent applications) are listed on Form 1449 attached hereto.

II. COPIES

A. _____ Submitted herewith is a legible copy of (i) each U.S. patent application publication and U.S. and foreign patent; (ii) each publication or that portion which caused it to be listed; (iii) for each cited pending U.S. application, the application specification including the claims, and any drawing of the application which caused it to be listed including the claims directed to that portion; and (iv) all other information or that portion which caused it to be listed.

B. _____ Any patents, publications or other information which are listed on Form 1449 or on the copies of PTO-892, but which are not enclosed herewith, were previously cited by or submitted to the PTO in one of the following applications which has been relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120:

U.S. Serial Number

U.S. Filing Date

C. X Because the present application was/is being filed after June 30, 2003, no copies of the U.S. patents or U.S. patent application publications which are listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed pursuant to the waiver of 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2)(i). Any foreign patent documents or non-patent literature listed on the attached Form 1449 are enclosed herewith.

D. ____ This is a PCT application in the entry of the National Phase in the United States. A copy of the International Search Report is attached for the Examiner's information. The documents listed on the International Search Report are listed on the attached Form-1449 for consideration by the Examiner and for listing on any patent resulting from this application. Since the International Search Report was from the US, EPO, or JPO search authorities, copies of these references should have been supplied to the USPTO under the trilateral agreement and are believed to be in the file of the above-identified application. (MPEP 1893.03(g))

III. CONCISE EXPLANATION OF THE RELEVANCE (check at least one box)

A. X Except as may be indicated below in (B), all of the patents, publications or other information are in the English language (concise explanation not required).

B. X A concise explanation of the relevance of each patent, publication or other information listed that is not in the English language is as follows (see 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3)):

1. ____ See the attached foreign patent office communication from a counterpart foreign application:
2. ____ English translations are provided:
3. X Other:

International Search Report for PCT/EP02/08130, dated 1/29/03, 5 pages.

Abstract of EP 0488518: This invention relates to an apparatus for welding a stud to a workpiece. The stud is positioned against the workpiece in such a manner that the stud retracts from an extended first position to a second position against the workpiece. The stud is then retracted away from the workpiece to a fully retracted third position. Welding current is provided so as to establish a welding arc between the stud and the workpiece as the stud is being retracted to a third position. The stud is then plunged toward the workpiece to make contact therewith. The displacement of the stud from its initial first position to the second position is measured during the time that the stud is in engagement with the workpiece and before the stud is retracted therefrom to the third position. The plunging of the stud toward the workpiece is controlled as a function of the measured displacement in such a manner as to control the point in time at which the stud makes contact with the workpiece. U.S. Patent No. 5,030,815 appears to be equivalent to the European application.

Abstract of DE 3432963: This invention relates to a process for welding structural parts, in particular bolts, onto workpieces by means of a welding gun using a measuring stroke. During this procedure, the structural part is brought from a retracted position specified by the welding gun up to the workpiece. The immersion time and/or the immersion stroke section are measured. The welding arc current is then adjusted according to the intensity and/or time. A high-intensity transistor is used as welding current-controlling element.

DE 29521601U: This invention appears to be related to a welding tool.

Abstract of DE 4236527: Bolts and similar items with an ignition tip are welded to workpieces with the use of a capacitor discharge to produce a welding current and to create an arc, with the welding parameters (charge voltage, welding energy etc.) set, monitored and (if necessary) corrected. The method is characterized in that the data on bolt parameters (dia. Material, geometry of the ignition tip, etc.) is established and stored before the welding process (in particular, during bolt mfr) in such a way that it can be interrogated and used for adjustment of the welding parameters immediately before, during or after supply of the bolts to the welding head. The data on bolt parameters is obtained during or after mfr. Of individual bolt. The bolts are then loaded into bolt belts with accompanying data (which is electrically/electronically readable) for each bolt. Alternatively, the bolts are sorted according to their parameters into batches, with the required data accompanying each batch.

Abstract of DE 20003132: This invention relates to a stud welding head with a linear drive, a welding pin coupled with said linear drive and a length metering system that determines the position of the welding pin in the stud welding head, said length metering system being an electromagnetic length metering system.

DE 19828986: This invention relates to a stud welder that has a central stud welding arrangement with a weld output, a control connection with at least one external control unit connected to the weld output at its weld input and to the control connection with control connection. The control unit has at least one weld output connected to a stud welding head and at least one controllable switch connecting the control unit's weld input to a weld output. U.S. Patent Application No. 2003132202 appears to be the equivalent to this German patent.

C. ____The following additional information is provided for the Examiner's consideration.

IV. CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

A.____The Examiner is advised that the following co-pending application(s) contain(s) subject matter that may be related to the present application. By bringing this(these) application(s) to the Examiner's attention, Applicant(s) does(do) not waive the confidentiality provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122.

Serial No.

Filing Date

Art Unit

V. THIS IDS IS BEING FILED UNDER

A. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b): (check only one box)

1. within three months of the filing date of a national application other than a continued prosecution application under § 1.53(d) (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1)). No fee or certification is required.
2. within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in §1.491 in an international application (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(2)). No fee or certification is required.
3. X before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(3)). No fee or certification is required. In the event that a first Office Action on the merits has been issued, please consider this IDS under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) and see the certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) below; or, if no certification has been made, charge our deposit account a fee in the amount of \$180.00 as required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
4. before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No fee or certification is required.

B. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c): (check only one box)

before the mailing date of either any Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113, a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution.

1. No certification; therefore, a fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
2. See the certification below. No fee is required.

C. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d):

after the mailing date of either a Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311, yet on or before payment of the issue fee.

1. See the certification below. A fee in the amount of \$180.00 is required by 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).

VI. CERTIFICATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e): (check only one box)

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

- A. each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application

not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1)). See further statement under 37 C.F. R. 1.704(d) below in section VII, if applicable; or

B. ____ no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS (See 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2)).

C. ____ Some of the items of information were first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office. As to this information, the undersigned hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS. As to the remaining information, the undersigned hereby certifies that no item of this remaining information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this IDS was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

VII. STATEMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.704(d)

The undersigned hereby states that:

____ each item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this IDS.

VIII. PAYMENT OF FEES (check only one box)

A. ____ A check in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed for the above-identified fee.

B. ____ Please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2550 in the amount of \$180.00 for the above-indicated fee. A duplicate copy of this paper is attached.

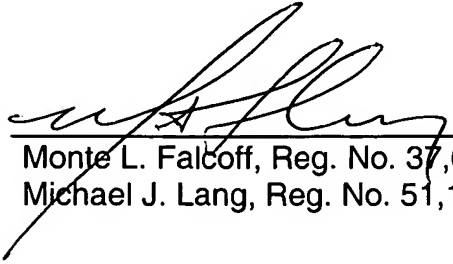
The above references are being cited only in the interest of candor and without any admission that they constitute statutory prior art, contain matter which anticipates the invention, or which would render the same obvious, either singly or in combination, to a person of ordinary skill in the art. Furthermore, this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made.

If it is determined that this IDS has been filed under the wrong rule, the PTO is requested to consider this IDS under the proper rule (with a petition if necessary) and charge the appropriate fee to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17 to Deposit Account No. 02-2550.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 27, 2004

By: 
Monte L. Falcoff, Reg. No. 37,617
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FORM HDP-1449 (Based on Form PTO-1449) PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION (Use several sheets if necessary) Sheet 1 of 1	ATTORNEY DOCKET No.	SERIAL No.
	0275M-000863	not yet assigned
	APPLICANT	
	Schmidt et al.	
	FILING DATE	GROUP
	not yet assigned	not yet assigned

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS						
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Name	Class/ Subclass	(If appropriate) Filing Date
1.						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS							
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	Document Number	Date	Country	Class/ Subclass	Translation Yes	No
1.		EP 0488518	6/1992	Europe		Abstract	
2.		DE 3432963	3/1986	Germany		Abstract	
3.		DE 29521601	10/1997	Germany			X
4.		DE 4236527	5/1994	Germany		Abstract	
5.		DE 20003132	6/2000	Germany		Abstract	
6.		DE 19828986	12/1999	Germany		Abstract	

OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)		
Ref. Desig.	Examiner's Initials	
1.		International Search Report for PCT/EP02/08130, dated 1/29/2003, 5 pages.

Examiner:	Date Considered:
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EXAMINER: Please initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.